



For Immediate Release, January 8, 2014

West Virginia Center for the Book celebrates WV Reads 150 and prepares for WV Reads 150+ in 2014

CHARLESTON, WV. The West Virginia Center for the Book invites participants of WV Reads 150, a reading initiative in honor of West Virginia's sesquicentennial, to a celebration on Saturday, January 11, 2014, from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Great Hall of the Culture Center in the State Capitol Complex, Charleston.

West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman will be master of ceremonies.

West Virginians of all ages and walks of life joined the year-long initiative to read 150 books in 2013, West Virginia's sesquicentennial year. Participants read books in any format (printed, e-book, downloadable text), from any source and on any topic, fiction or non-fiction. People read books individually or joined teams to read 150 books collectively at more than 75 public libraries, academic libraries, schools and bookstores across the state.

Prize drawings will be held throughout the open house reception, and a number of West Virginia authors will attend for book signings. Authors' books will be available for purchase in the Tamarack West Virginia Museum Shop:

Patricia Harman – *The Blue Cotton Gown: A Midwife's Memoir*, *Arms Wide Open: A Midwife's Journey*, *The Midwife of Hope River: A Novel*

Sarah Sullivan - *All That's Missing*, *Passing the Music Down*, *Once Upon a Baby Brother*, *Dear Baby: Letters from Your Big Brother*, *Root Beer and Banana*

Betty Rivard – *New Deal Photographs of West Virginia, 1934 - 1943*

Marilyn Sue Shank – *Child of the Mountains*

Mack Samples - *The Devil's Tea Tables: West Virginia Ghost Stories and Other*

Marc Harshman – WV Poet Laureate; *A Little Excitement*, *Snow Company*, *Rocks in My Pockets*, *Red are the Apples*, *Only One Neighborhood*, *The Storm*

Bill Bitner and Danny Boyd – *Death Falcon Zero vs. The Zombie Slug Lords*.

Sarah Title – Romance Author; *Kentucky Home*, *Kentucky Christmas: A Novella*, *Apple of My Pie: A Novella*

Marie Manilla - *Still Life with Plums: Short Stories*, *Shrapnel*

Tales

In addition, the West Virginia State Museum will be open and available for tours.

The celebration will also kick off **WV READS 150+**, a new reading initiative for 2014. For more information about the celebration and the new campaign, contact Susan Hayden, Adult Services Consultant, Susan.G.Hayden@wv.gov, 304-558-3978.

The event is sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the importance of books and reading. The West Virginia Center for the Book brings this message to audiences statewide. The Center highlights the state's unique literary heritage, from its earliest storytellers to modern novelists and poets.

The West Virginia Library Commission serves the people of West Virginia and encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians. More information is available at www.librarycommission.wv.gov.

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